

## The Environment Is Entrusted To Us

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
(ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ  
لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ)  
عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَالَ:  
«...وَيُمِيطُ الْأَذَى عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ صَدَقَةٌ»

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In today's world, one of the most discussed solutions among scientists and policymakers is the weakening of the Earth's ecological structure. As a result of humanity's selfish and irresponsible attitude towards nature, the environmental destruction that has occurred is alarming and permanent. Global warming and climate change, caused by technological advancements and environmental pollution, have become the most critical issues facing the world today and pose a threat to humanity. The harm inflicted by humans on the environment has led to the decrease of food sources and natural resources. Consequently, unknown diseases and disasters have emerged as a result.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse we have read at the beginning of this Khutba, in Surah Ar-Rum, Allah (swt) mentions, **"Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of [the consequence of] what they have done."**<sup>1</sup> By saying this, Allah (swt) informs us that the cause of such disasters is once again the actions of humans themselves. In the Surah Ar-Rahman, Allah (swt) states, **"He raised the heavens and imposed the balance. That you not transgress within the balance."**<sup>2</sup> When humans fail to follow this command, they harm both nature and themselves.

### Dear Jama'ah!

Our Prophet (saw), who is our perfect example in every aspect, has advised us to be sensitive to the environment and to avoid causing harm to our surroundings without distinguishing between living and non-living. Through the narration from Abu Hurairah, the Prophet (saw) said, *"...removing something harmful from the road is an act of charity."*<sup>3</sup> By saying this, he emphasised our responsibility to be environmentally conscious and sensitive.

Especially when it comes to our children, we should show sensitivity in many areas to instil environmental awareness. We should create environmental consciousness by reducing plastic usage, preventing food waste and avoiding extravagance in our shopping habits. Similarly, being energy-efficient in our usage, choosing environmentally friendly transportation methods, particularly public transportation, are among our responsibilities towards our entrusted environment.

On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5th, we can participate in local actions and programs in our city to enhance our awareness and understanding of the subject.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let us take care of our world and environment, which are entrusted to us by Allah (swt). Let us remember that we represent our religion through every action we take. Let us pass on the world that has been left to us as an inheritance to future generations without polluting or damaging it. May Allah (swt) grant us the ability to live by appreciating the blessings given to us by Him. Ameen.

<sup>1</sup> Surah Ar-Rum, 30:41

<sup>2</sup> Surah Ar-Rahman, 55:7-8

<sup>3</sup> Buhârî, Cihâd, 128